

The humble  
**P E T I T I O N**

Of the Gentry, Ministers, and  
 Freeholders of the County of  
*York*, assembled at the As-  
 sises there holden.

Presented to His Majesty, April 5.

Together with his Majesties Speech at the  
 presenting thereof.

And His gracious Answer thereunto;




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75



To the Kings most Excellent  
Majesty.

*The humble Petition of the Gentry, Ministers, and  
Freeholders of the County of York, now assembled  
at the Assizes there holden,*

*Most humbly sheweth,*



**T**HAT, although the piercing anguish of our Souls, proceeding from the generall distractions of this Kingdom, be eased by the comfort of your Majesties Royall presence, and gracious Confidence in the Affections of this County, which hath filled our Hearts with Hopes, and our Tongues with Joy; yet the fellow-feeling of the passionate Sorrows, and heart-breaking Apprehensions which overwhelms the other parts of this afflicted Kingdom, do inforce us (after the humble tender of our Lives and Fortunes, for the Safety and Assurance of your Majesties Royall Person, Crown, Honour and Estate, just Prerogative and Sovereignty, in any capacity wherein we may serve your Majesty according to the Laws) to follow that Sacrifice of bounden duty, with our earnest Prayers and Petitions, which shall not cry in your Princely Ears for help to almost-ruined *Ireland*, nor implore your Majesties Concurrence for the propagation of the Protestant Religion, and suppression of Popery, since your Majesties Gracious Declaration of your Selfe, in those particulars, renders it an unpardonable Crime to desire further Assurance, or Addition to your Majesties own words, Sacred before God and Man; But emboldned by your Royall Resolution declared,

to take away not onely the just Feares, but also the Jealousie of your loyall Subjects, and enforced by that infallible Oracle of Truth, That a Kingdome divided cannot stand. We, from the center of every one of our hearts, most earnestly supplicate, That your Majesty (being most interested in the flourishing State and Union of your Dominions, and by long experience in Government, best acquainted with Prevention of Dangers, and Remedy of Evils) will be graciously pleased to declare such fit Means and Expediments as may take away all Distances and Mis-understandings betwixt your Majesty and Your great Councell, to whom we will also addresse our selves for such endeavours, on their parts, as may beget in Your Majesty a confidence in their Councels, and that blessed Union so necessary to this perplexed Kingdome, and most desired by us, and all Your Majesties loving Subjects.

*And your Petitioners shall ever pray for your Majesties long and prosperous Reign, &c.*



5. Aprilis, 1642.

His Majesties Speech to the Sheriffe, Gentry, Ministry, and Freeholders of the County of York, when they presented to Him their Petition.

Mr. Sheriffe, and Gentlemen,



*Beleeve you expect not a present & particular Answer to your Petition, because it is new unto Me: Only in generall I must tell you, That I see by it, That I am not deceived in the confidence I have in the Affections of this County to my Person and State; and I assure you that I will not deceive your Confidence which*

at this time you have declared in your Petition, to have in  
Mee : And I am glad to see that it is not upon mistaken  
Grounds, as other Petitions have been to Me since I came to  
this place : Concerning which, let mee observe unto you,  
That my answers were to cleere those mistakes; for I ne-  
ver did goe about to punish or discourage th<sup>m</sup> from petiti-  
oning to Mee in an humble way, though the Subject did not a-  
gree with my Sense; Albeit within the memory of man, peo-  
ple have been discouraged, and threatned to bee punished for  
Petitions.

I observe that your Petition is so modest, that it doth not  
mention any particular for your own good; which indeed  
I expected, as knowing that in some particular<sup>s</sup> you have  
great reason so to doe; and therefore, that you may not fare the  
worse for your Modesty, I will put you in minde of three par-  
ticulars, which I conceive to be for the good of this Country.

The first is concerning your trayned Bands, to reduce them  
to a lesser number, for which, I confesse to stand engaged by  
promise to you, which I had performed long since, if I had  
been put in minde of it : And now I tell you, Shew me but  
the Way, and (when you shall think fit) I shall instantly re-  
duce them to that number which I promised you two yeeres  
agoe.

The second is, That which is owing to this County for  
Billet money; The truth is, That for the present I cannot  
repay it; Only I will say this, That if all the Water had gone  
to the right Mill (upon my Word) you had beene long agoe  
satisfied in this particular. And so I leave to your discreti-  
ons which way you will advise and assist Mee to comply with  
the Engagement to you in this point.

The third is, That for which I was petitioned as I came  
up the last yeere, both by the Lord Major and Aldermen of

this City, and likewise by divers others of this County; as I went Southward; And that is concerning the Court of York. And first let Me tell you, That as yet I know no Legall Dissolution of it, for hitherto there is nothing come to Me, either directly or indirectly, for the taking of it away: therefore I may say, It is rather shaken in pieces, then dissolved. Now my Desire is, in compliance to what I answered the last yeer unto the severall Petitions delivered to Me upon this Subject, That you would consult and agree among yourselves in what manner you would have the Court established, most to your own contentments, and to the good of all these Northern parts, in such a Legall way, as that it may not justly be excepted against; and I assure you, in the word of an honest man, that you shall not blame Me, if you have not full satisfaction in it.

Within a day or two ye shall have a particular Answer to your Petition, which shall be such a one as I am confident will give you good satisfaction, and put you into such away, as, I hope, may produce good effects to the good of all this Kingdome.

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HIS



# HIS MAJESTIES A N S W E R.

To the foresaid Petition of the Gen-  
try, Ministers, and Freeholders of  
the Countrey of York.

At the Court at York, April 7. 1642.

*His Majesty, according to His Promise made to you at the  
delivery of this Petition, hath commanded me to sub-  
scribe this His Answer.*

**I**N the first place, He is glad to see, That  
what you say concerning the Relief of his  
distressed Subjects in *Ireland*, and the Pro-  
pagation of the true Religion amongst us,  
against all Superstition of Popery, is only  
to shew your Confidence in his Princely word; wherein  
He again hath commanded me to assure you, That He  
will neither deceive your trust, nor wrong Himself so  
much as not to be very punctuall in performance of the  
Engagement He hath already made concerning those  
particulars, which besides the performance of his Word  
(which

(which He holds most decre unto him) His own inclinations naturally induce Him unto.

Now concerning the Prayer of your Petition, His Majesty doth graciously interpret, That your desiring Him to declare such fit means and expedients as may take away all Distance and Mis-understandings betwixt His Majesty and His great Councell, is no otherwise then to have the more authentique ground, and the better direction which way to carry your selves in your addresses to the Parliament for that effect. And therefore his Majesty assures you, That not only the best, but (as he conceives) the sole way for this good Understanding between his Majesty and his Parliament (which He assures you that He no lesse desires then your selves) is, That the Parliament will take his Majesties Message of the twentieth of January last into consideration speedily, seriously, and effectually; and that the *Militia* of this Kingdom may be settled by Act of Parliament, according to his Majesties explanation of his Answer concerning the *Militia*, which He made in the Answer He returned to both Houses, upon the Petition presented to Him the 26. of March last. And therefore his Majesty desires you to take those Answers and that Message into your serious Consideration, and thereupon to proceed (according to the intimation in your Petitiō) in your Addresses to the Parliament, as you shall judge fittest for the good of this Kingdome, and the expressions of your Duty and Affection to His Majesties Person and State.

*Signed by Master Secretary Nicholas*

**FINIS.**